

Centre for Peace Studies, McMaster University

Contact: Gary Purdy, Director

Address: Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, Togo Salomon Hall 726, McMaster University, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4M2

Email: peace@mcmaster.ca

Website: <http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~peace/>

Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 24729 / Fax: (905) 570-1167

Organization's mandate/goals:

The Centre for Peace Studies at McMaster University was established by the Board of Governors in 1989. In 1999 Peace Studies became part of the Faculty of Humanities, and in July 2000 the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies was created to provide administrative support and form a home base for students in the three interdisciplinary areas based in Humanities, Comparative Literature, Women's Studies and Peace Studies. As well as offering academic courses, the Centre for Peace Studies annually sponsors the independently endowed Bertrand Russell Peace Lectures and Mahatma Gandhi Lectures on Non-violence. It has organized several international conferences, initiated a number of scholarly publications, and has a wide range of international contacts, especially in Central America, Europe, India, and the Middle East.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Human and Social Development -- *Teaching conflict and violence prevention*

Peace Studies is a discipline that seeks to understand war and peace, violence and non-violence, conflict and conflict transformation, and that looks for ways to promote human well-being through this understanding. Peace Studies is distinguished from other disciplines by its focus, its integration of approaches from varied disciplines, its explicit values and its engaged scholarship. While many academic disciplines regard war and peace, violence and non-violence, conflict and conflict transformation as important aspects of human social life, Peace Studies is the only one that puts them at the centre of its study. Peace Studies is one of a number of emerging disciplines that explicitly regards certain conditions as problematic and commits itself both to understanding and to changing these conditions.